

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 04820

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GR, TU, DPD, NAC
SUBJECT: GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS: FURTHER TO MAY 25
TURKISH LETTER
REF: USNATO 04234 DTG 271709Z MAY 77
SUMMARY: SINCE DISPATCH OF REFTTEL, WE HAVE GIVEN FURTHER
THOUGHT TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF TURKEY'S DESIRE TO ALLOCATE
MILITARY-RELATED TECHNICAL QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO GREECE-
NATO NEGOTIATIONS TO "THE DRC AND MILITARY COMMITTEE
(NMA'S) SIMULTANEOUSLY OR ACCORDING TO THE SUBJECTS". WE
HAVE ALSO PROBED TURKISH INTENTIONS. OUR INITIAL VIEW IS
THAT WE SHOULD RESIST THE ALLOCATION OF MILITARY-RELATED
TECHNICAL QUESTIONS TO THE DRC AND MILITARY COMMITTEE. THE
TURKISH APPROACH, IF ADOPTED, COULD COMPLICATE WHAT MIGHT
BE A STRAIGHTFORWARD PROCESS, AND WOULD MOVE THE NEGOTI-
ATING PROCESS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS INTO BODIES LESS WELL
PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE POLITICAL DIMENSION OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS THAN IS THE OPEN-ENDED GROUP (OEG). NEVERTHE-
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LESS, THE TURKS MAY INSIST ON FORMALIZING AND CONTROLLING
THE DEFINITION AND ALLOCATION OF ISSUES TO ASSURE THAT
SUFFICIENT GUIDANCE IS GIVEN TO THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL
LEVEL TO LEAD TO RESULTS ACCEPTABLE TO ANKARA. WE WOULD
WELCOME WASHINGTON'S AND USNMR SHAPE'S THOUGHTS ON NEXT
STEPS. END SUMMARY.

1. TURKISH DELEGATION HAS PRIVATELY PROVIDED US WITH SOME INSIGHT INTO TURKISH THINKING ABOUT THE MAY 25 LETTER AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. THEY NOTED:

--BECAUSE OF THE HIGHLY POLITICAL CHARACTER OF THE GREECE-NATO DISCUSSION, THE TURKISH DELEGATION AT NATO PREFERS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS INITIALLY BE CONDUCTED IN BODIES OTHER THAN THE OEG. IN THE TURKISH VIEW, THIS WOULD HELP ASSURE MORE CONTROL OVER MILITARY-TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS, AND HELP AVOID INVOLVING POLITICAL LEVEL OF TURKISH DELEGATION IN THE PROCESS;

--TURKEY WANTS THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSION AT SHAPE OR ELSEWHERE TO BE WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF SPECIFIC GUIDANCE DEVELOPED BY THE DRC, MILITARY COMMITTEE OR OTHER INTER-MEDIARY GROUP. THE GUIDANCE, IN THE TURKISH VIEW, SHOULD OUTLINE THE DESIRED RESULTS OF DISCUSSION AT THE MILITARY/TECHNICAL LEVEL;

--DESPITE THE ABOVE, TURKEY IS WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE;

--THE TURKISH DELEGATION DOES NOT WANT ANOTHER MEETING OF THE OEG UNTIL THE TURKISH ELECTIONS ARE SAFELY PAST (SEE REFTEL).

2. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT MOVING THE FOCUS OF NON-POLITICAL DISCUSSION ON GREECE-NATO RELATIONS TO THE DRC FROM THE OEG. THE OEG WAS SET UP AND CHARGED BY THE DPC WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE DRC IS NO SECRET

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MORE TECHNICALLY COMPETENT THAN THE OEG TO RESOLVE THE SPECIFIC ISSUES AT HAND. MOREOVER, MANY OF THE ISSUES ARE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AND WE BELIEVE COULD MORE READILY GO OFF THE TRACK IF MOVED TO THE DRC. MOST COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED IN THE OEG BY THEIR DEPUTY PERMREPS, WHO HAVE HAD TO DEVELOP SOME DEGREE OF COMPETENCE AND POLITICAL ASTUTENESS IN DEALING WITH THE COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS; THEIR DRC COLLEAGUES ARE NOT EQUALLY INFORMED.

3. SHOULD THE TURKS INSIST ON ALLOCATION TO THE DRC, AND ALL OTHER ALLIES BE PREPARED TO AGREE (A MOVE WHICH WE THINK IS UNLIKELY BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE) WE WOULD FIND OURSELVES IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. BOTH OPEN OPPOSITION AND PRIVATE DEMARCHES WOULD QUICKLY BE NOTED AND RESENTED BY TURKS, A SITUATION WE LIKELY WOULD WANT TO AVOID. THIS ISSUE, THEN, MAY PRESENT US WITH A DIFFICULT DILEMMA, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONCEIVE HOW TO MEET THE TURKISH DESIRE TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE

GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS EVEN AT THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL LEVEL. SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AS INCLUDING TURKISH REPS IN THE GREECE-SACEUR TALKS WOULD BE CLEARLY IMPRACTICAL.

4. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF OEG GUIDANCE FOR THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL LEVEL, WE CONTINUE TO PREFER A MINIMUM, IN ORDER TO AVOID TIME-CONSUMING AND UNPRODUCTIVE ARGUMENTS IN THE OEG OVER TERMS OF REFERENCE. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS HAVING THE BARE ISSUES REMANDED TO SACEUR FOR EXPLORATION AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE

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TURKISH AND GREEK PAPERS AND THE PANSA "NON-PAPER". SACEUR COULD BE ASKED BY THE OEG TO EXPLORE THE ISSUES, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND DSYG PANSA. THEREAFTER, THE RESULTS OF SACEUR'S EXPLORATIONS AS THEY PROCEED WOULD BE REPORTED TO DSYG PANSA AND THE CMC TO BE COMMUNICATED FULLY TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE OEG. IT IS POSSIBLE, BUT DOUBTFUL, WE BELIEVE, THAT CHARGING THE MC CHAIRMAN AND PANSA WITH SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES WILL HELP MEET TURKISH DESIRES. NONETHELESS, IN THE ABSENCE OF SENSIBLE ALTERNATIVES WE THINK IT WORTH A

TRY. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT WE UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY
EXPLORATION ON THIS POINT WITH THE TURKS, BECAUSE TO DO SO
MIGHT FREEZE THEIR POSITION.

6. IN ANY CASE, WE BELIEVE ANY ACTION HERE SHOULD BE
DEFERRED UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE TURKISH ELECTIONS ARE
CLEARER. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON
AND USNMR SHAPE OBSERVATIONS ON THE QUESTIONS OF VENUE AND
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GUIDANCE TO SACEUR, IN LIGHT OF THE TURKISH LETTER OF
MAY 25.BENNETT

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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